

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE
BARRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BARRINGTON, RHODE ISLAND**

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Minutes of School Committee Meeting 12/05/13

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, December 5, 2013 at the Administration Building. As it was the annual organizational meeting, Mr. Messore called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Present were Dr. Shea, Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Guida, Mr. Connor, Mr. Messore, Mrs. Dillon and Mr. Tarro.

Mr. Messore requested nominations for the Chairperson.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to nominate Mrs. Kate Brody as Chairperson. The motion passed 5-0 with Dr. Shea, Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Fuller and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.

The gavel was turned over to Mrs. Brody.

Mrs. Brody expressed how honored she is to serve in this role and will assume it with great pride and dedication. Mrs. Brody also stated that she will have privilege to have Dr. Shea and Mr. Guida, both former Committee Chairpersons, as leadership guides.

Mrs. Brody requested nominations for the Vice-Chairperson-Clerk.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to nominate Dr. Paula Dominguez as Vice-Chairperson-Clerk.

Mr. Fuller read a personal statement addressing greater efficiency in government, collaboration within the Committee as well as with the Committee on Appropriations, and funding for the priority of All Day Kindergarten. Mr. Fuller thanked Mrs. Brody and Dr. Dominguez for their service.

The motion passed 5-0 with Dr. Shea, Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Fuller and Mr. Guida voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Pledge of Allegiance

Samuel Dragomire led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Achievement Recognition

Mr. Messore announced the following achievements across the district:

The Barrington Eagles Unified Volleyball team ended their season as Division II semifinalists.

Barrington Middle School Sixth graders Nikhil Pareek, Eytan Goldstein, and Amit Bhatia earned top Historic Geography Honors in the 2013 Geography Awareness Week Map Challenge.

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Both Barrington Middle School Robotics Teams advanced to Rhode Island's First LEGO League State Championship. Team 1 won the 1st Place Championship Award for the second year in a row.

Barrington High School Science Teacher Kara West has earned National Board Certification in Adolescence and Young Adulthood/Science.

The Barrington High School Girls Cross Country Team placed 5th overall and were the top Rhode Island team at the NIKE Northeast Regionals. Sophomore Emma McMillan placed 4th overall, and top individual for Rhode Island, earning a trip to run in the NIKE Cross Country Nationals.

Information and Proposals

Mrs. Dillon provided an update on Common Core State Standards (CCSS), the standards by which the district in collaboration with its teachers use to guide curriculum writing. The presentation, available on the district website, included what can be expected in the areas of Math and Language Arts. Mrs. Dillon also provided an overview of the Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessment system that will replace the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) for Math and Language Arts in March 2015 for Grades 3-11. Mrs. Dillon announced that the Rhode Island Department of Education will hold an information session on the Common Core State Standards at Barrington High School on January 28 at 7 p.m. and the event will be sponsored by the Barrington Education Foundation. The presentation was followed by questions from the Committee regarding technology and expectations for PARCC assessments, and a lengthy discussion ensued on the Common Core State Standards. Mr. Fuller read a personal statement expressing his concerns regarding the adoption of the Common Core State Standards.

General Public Discussion and Information

Mrs. Laura Larrivee expressed her concerns as a parent and her reasoning for not supporting the adoption of the Common Core State Standards. Mrs. Larrivee stated that the adoption of the standards was a way for Rhode Island to receive Race To the Top funding due to its poor financial status, adding that many states are now backing out of Common Core. Mr. Connor noted that the Common Core are a set of standards and not forced curriculum, to which Mrs. Larrivee responded that Pearson Education, a textbook manufacturing, will also be aligning to the Common Core State Standards. Mrs. Dillon stated that the district is not currently purchasing textbooks. Mr. Guida clarified that the Common Core State Standards were adopted in Rhode Island independently from the Race to the Top grant.

Mr. Tad Segal, of 185 New Meadow Road, congratulated Mrs. Brody on her appointment as School Committee Chair, and applauded Mr. Fuller on his comments on the Common Core State Standards. Mr. Segal stated that he has conducted his own research, and while the common goal is to have high standards for students, he does not agree with the adoption of the Common Core State Standards. Mr. Segal questioned how curriculum is being developed and Mrs. Dillon's role as a CCSS ambassador. Mrs. Dillon overviewed the curriculum process and explained her advocacy role as a CCSS ambassador.

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Mrs. Emily Conner, of 27 County Road, thanked the Committee for a great school district and thanked Mr. Fuller for his comments. Mrs. Conner stated her concerns for exposing students to the new PARCC assessments and asked about curriculum and literature at the High School level. Mrs. Dillon responded that High School student caseload for most classes include nonfiction reading and explained the balance that is achieved with curriculum throughout the school day for students.

Mrs. Amy Segal, of 185 New Meadow Road, expressed her concerns for the Common Core State Standards for Barrington as a district that consistently does well and added that Barrington should wait as Massachusetts has done to administer PARCC testing due to the high costs involved. Mr. Guida stated that only at the state level can these issues be addressed, and Barrington as a district cannot pull out on its own. Dr. Dominguez noted that Massachusetts and Rhode Island are not comparable as states overall for student performance, as Massachusetts ranks higher. A lengthy discussion ensued.

Mrs. Brody thanked the parents who attended the meeting and participated in tonight's discussion.

Mrs. Laura Larrivee stated her appreciation for the Town of Barrington and its school system, but continues to have concerns regarding the Common Core State Standards.

Old Business from Superintendent and Staff

Mr. Messore provided an update on the status of the proposed athletic training wall grant sought by the East Bay Lacrosse organization. The proposed wall, consisting of five connected concrete slabs, would be installed at the Barrington Middle School. Mr. Messore has contact the district's insurance company and the proposed wall may require additional insurance coverage. Next steps include a site visit by a building inspector to acquire additional information.

Old Business from School Committee

Mr. Messore reported that the All Day Kindergarten Task Force is scheduled to meet on December 11. The Task Force is expected to review enrollment projections, facilities, staffing, and the overall instructional needs, as well as research other states who have recently implemented a full day program. Mr. Fuller asked when budget information would become available for the actual costs of implementing All Day Kindergarten to which Mr. Messore responded would be January. Mr. Tarro added that budget projections will be based on assumptions using prior enrollment data and are subject to change. Actual cost will be driven by enrollment.

The charge and fiscal management of the Building Committee was presented for approval.

Mr. Guida moved and Dr. Dominguez seconded to approve the Building Committee charge as presented. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

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The Building Committee postponed their December meeting and will meet in January. Mr. Tarro has spoken to Mr. Joseph DaSilva at the Rhode Island Department of Education to assist with next steps which include the hiring of an architect firm for the Middle School building project. The Central Office and co-chairs will review proposals and submit a recommendation to the School Committee. Mr. Guida and Mr. Marc Zawatsky are co-chairs of the Building Committee.

Mrs. Brody, as co-chair of the Strategic Communication Subcommittee, extended her appreciation to the entire Subcommittee for their commitment to producing the Strategic Communication Plan introduced at tonight's meeting. Mr. Messore reviewed the critical questions posed to create the Plan and the major categories included in the Plan. The Communication Plan was created in an effort to move the district forward and enhance district-wide communication. Questions from the Committee included next steps and protocols to address emergency communication. Mr. Ted Segal asked if there would be opportunity for public engagement, and if so he offered the help of his communications firm.

Mrs. Brody led the continued discussion on scheduling a Governance Workshop. Discussion included facilitator selection, location and timeframe for the workshop.

New Business from Superintendent and Staff

Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the following appointments:

**Denise DeFanti, NA, Building Intern
Sarah Salem, PH, Building Intern
Kathryn Paul, SO, Building Intern**

Mr. Fuller asked for clarification on the Building Intern positions. Mr. Messore outlined the job description and noted that these three new hires will focus on support for Kindergarten.

The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointment of Laurie Dubel, MS, Co-Robotics Coach. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the request for leave of absence for Kendra Klein, HS, World Languages. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

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Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the request for home schooling for the named individual. The student name was not identified publicly. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mr. Messore provided a recommendation for School Committee consideration for the addition of one part-time position to assist in the Central Office. Mr. Tarro outlined the needs for the new position, noting the increased workload due to additional reporting items required by State and Federal Regulations, the Affordable Care Act, and Uniform Chart of Accounts. The Committee requested that a copy of the job description be provided for review.

New Business from School Committee

The School Committee policy on Volunteers in Schools was presented and read aloud for a first reading by the Committee. The policy will be amended per the suggested changes by the Committee and presented for a second reading and formal approval at the next Committee meeting.

Consent Agenda

Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Discussion Future Agenda Items

Mr. Messore reported that the next regular meeting of the School Committee on Thursday, December 19 will feature presentations on enrollment projections, educator evaluation, and an achievement data report.

Mr. Fuller suggested that the budget be added to all future agendas as a standing agenda item.

Following a Town Council motion to hold a joint meeting with the School Committee on consolidation of services, Mr. Fuller requested a discussion be held at the next meeting on December 19 for discussion prior to meeting with the Town Council.

Mr. Fuller requested that the district website and the School Committee page in particular, be placed on a future meeting agenda for discussion.

Mr. Fuller requested that the district data dashboard be placed on a future meeting agenda for discussion. Mr. Messore noted that the district dashboard can be found on the district website under district scorecard and there is still opportunity for feedback as outlined in the Superintendent's monthly newsletter.

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Mrs. Brody requested a follow up on Guidance Department data and ACT data. Mr. Messore noted that Barrington High School Principal Mr. Joseph Hurley is scheduled to attend the next Committee meeting on December 19. Mrs. Brody stressed the importance of having the data populated and accessible to students applying to college.

Mr. Fuller asked about the status of evaluation of programs following the presentation provided at the School Committee meeting on October 17. Mr. Messore noted that an additional update can be provided in January following enrollment and program review.

General Discussion to Guide Future Recommendations

Mr. Messore reported that the next regular meeting of the School Committee is scheduled for Thursday, December 19.

Mrs. Brody stated that the Town Charter Review Commission invited the School Committee and Town Council to its December 9 meeting to discuss the Financial Town Meeting.

Mrs. Brody reported that the Rhode Island Association of School Committees is holding a professional development session on December 14 on Common Core State Standards, What School Committees Need to Know.

General Public Discussion and Information

No issues were raised at this time.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:32 p.m. and go into Executive Session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(1) for Superintendent Evaluation; Section 42-46-5(a)(2) for Collective Bargaining and Litigation with BEST; and Section 42-46-5(a)(3) for discussion relative to school buildings security issues. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded to adjourn the Executive Session at 11:05 p.m. and to seal the minutes and report that no votes were taken. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 11:06 p.m. The motion passed 5-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Fuller, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.